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GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1914.

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

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Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions from the Local Government Board, I have the honour to submit my Eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Rural District, together with other information dealing with the administration of the various Acts for the maintenance of Public Health. Before dealing with the routine material of the year, I shall make some necessary remarks about the formation of a large Camp in your district, and various matters in connection with its Sanitary Administration.

BELTON CAMP.

The Eleventh Northern Division of the New Army has been for the last four months of the year quartered in the parish of Belton. Your Sanitary Officers were requested by the Local Government Board to give what assistance was possible to the military authority in the matters of camp sanitation, disposal of refuse, etc. Your Council considered it advisable that the

Sanitary Inspector should temporarily devote his whole time to the work of the district, and an arrangement to this effect was accordingly made. Many visits have been made to the Camp and active co-operation obtained with the Military Authority.

The problems of disposal of excrement, sullage water and refuse were of great magnitude, and the conditions not altogether ideal. It is not necessary that the various schemes should here be detailed, but it may be stated that, on the whole, the sanitary arrangements have worked satisfactorily, and the health of the camp generally has been good, and the incidence of infectious disease remarkably small.

Your Council placed its Isolation Hospital at the disposal of the Military Authority, to be utilized in the event of the occurrence of small-pox, but its use was not required.

During the last four months of the year ending December 1914, your Sanitary Inspector paid 39 visits to the Camp, and was able to give considerable assistance in these most important matters.

It should be noted that in the various Tables at the end of this Report, the military population of the Camp is excluded, and the Vital Statistics have been calculated quite apart from it.

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I submit a brief Summary of the Vital Statistics of the District:-

SUMMARY.

Area of Rural District	85,827 acres.
Rateable Value of Land	£54,209.
Rateable Value of Buildings	£66,320.
Population - Census 1911	12,257.
Population - Estimated 1914	12,150.
Birth Rate per 1,000	20.8.
Death Rate per 1,000	12.8.
Death Rate of Infants under One Year per 1,000	79.
Number of Illegitimate Births	12, or 4.3 per cent.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Comments have been made on these subjects in the various annual reports, and there is in the present year no new feature. The amount expended on Outdoor Relief during the year was £847-3-5.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

In the Report for the year 1913, mention was made of an examination undertaken of all the wells in the village of Barrowby, and an adverse report was made of the water supply of this village. The question of finding a method of supplying the village with a pure water supply was discussed by the Council, but no solution was found owing to the necessary expense of each of two alternative schemes suggested. The matter still remains in abeyance. Your Medical Officer took the opportunity during the year to make further examinations of the water in some of the wells which had been cleaned out, bricked, cemented and concreted since the previous examination. In none of the cases was there an appreciable improvement in the condition of the water as revealed by analysis, and confirmation was therefore obtained of the view held that there was general contamination of the sub-soil.

It is to be hoped that this important matter will again receive the serious attention of your Council.

In the village of Great Gonerby, a few wells were found to be polluted. The most important of these was the one supplying the village school, and arrangements

were made for the scholars to obtain a pure supply of water. The School sanitary arrangements were considered to require modification, and a recommendation to this effect forwarded to the Managers. The matter was taken in hand, and fresh privies of a much more satisfactory character were installed.

In the parish of Ropsley, a polluted well was found, and an old vault privy adjacent to it was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition. Steps were taken to have this remedied.

Routine Examination of water from wells supplying newly-erected houses revealed nothing of importance.

In one case, however, the certificate under the Public Health Water Act, 1878 was refused. This was in connection with a house re-erected at Barrowby, the existing well of which was not considered to comply with the Act. The owner of an adjacent property was good enough to allow the use of a supply of wholesome water, and thus the difficulty was disposed of. It should be clearly understood that the presence of a sufficient amount of wholesome potable water is essential, and should be definitely ascertained before any building operations are begun.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

It has been pointed out in former reports that the River Witham, which flows through your district, is liable to pollution, particularly at its source in the village of South Witham, and at Colsterworth. It has also been mentioned that a satisfactory drainage scheme for South Witham, though a difficult and costly operation, is wanted.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

These matters are dealt with in the Inspector's report. An important Drainage Scheme has been put in hand in the village of Welby. There has always been a difficulty in disposing of the sewage here owing to the impossibility of getting a fall to dispose of the effluent, and consequently a large drain leading to a ditch has become stagnant, and an unfortunate experience of two long drawn out epidemics of scarlet fever and diphtheria respectively in the last few years has impressed on the Council the advisability of obtaining a better method for disposal of the village sewage. It has been felt that the existing unsatisfactory condition of the sewage, although not in itself the cause of such epidemics, yet produces an insanitary

state calculated to prolong and to spread epidemic illness. Accordingly, a large Scheme was prepared. This is not at present completed, but it is hoped that the next Annual Report may record that it has satisfactorily dealt with the difficulties.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

It has been mentioned in former reports that your sanitary officers have attempted gradually to replace old-fashioned middens by the pail system. During the year a considerable improvement in this matter has been effected in the village of Great Gonerby.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging work has not been undertaken by the Council. It is certain that, in the greater part of the district, this work can easily be done by the residents. In the larger villages, however, and particularly in the case of Great Gonerby, it cannot be denied that the disposal of refuse has not always been satisfactorily carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

An exhaustive inspection of the village of Great Gonerby was carried out by your Medical Officer and

Sanitary Inspector, and a report was framed, and sent to the Council and also to the Board.

The chief points noted were :

- (1) An insufficiency of Closet accomodation.

In several instances there was only one privy to three houses, and in a large number of cases one for two houses.

- (2) Insanitary condition of many of the privies.

These were chiefly of the old vault type, and some were found to be obviously defective, and both a nuisance and a danger.

- (3) The presence of several congested areas in the village, in which any defects found would be liable to produce more serious results.

- (4) The actual housing conditions were not, on the whole, bad, and have been improved since the Housing and Town Planning Act came into force. Several cottages, however, were found to be overcrowded.

- (5) The water supply by shallow wells was, except in a few instances, good.

- (6) The village drains were in good condition.

The drainage of this village has been much improved since the year 1907.

Suggestions were made for the remedy of the various defects found, and instructions were given to the various owners of property. The chief alterations required were the conversion of vault closets found to be defective into pail closets, and a considerable increase in the number. ~~of~~ These were required, when possible, to be put at a distance from the house. Except in three instances, the owners showed a genuine desire to deal with the position, which had been clearly shown to be unsatisfactory, and the work was duly carried out.

In the remaining cases it was found necessary for the Council to put the work in hand, the Notices after six months' notice having ~~expired~~ been ignored.

In the village of Welby, certain drains were found to be defective, and pig-styes too near houses. These various defects were put right.

Your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector have made a large number of visits to various premises during the year.

The Inspector records 283 visits to various parishes.

The number of nuisances discovered in which Notices

were served was 29. This included:-

- 11 Notices re drains, involving 46 houses.
- 15 Notices re privies, involving 37 houses.
- 2 Notices re premises.
- 1 Notice re animals.

In all the cases, except the three already mentioned at Great Gonerby, the defects were made good by the various owners.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

A knacker's yard, and a fellmonger's establishment in the district, are periodically visited.

SCHOOLS.

As in former years, the Medical Officer has co-operated with the County Medical Officer in matters dealing with Schools, such as School Closure.

The improvement effected in the sanitary condition of Great Gonerby School has been already noted.

MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

No action has been found necessary during the year. Milk sheds and the few slaughter-houses in the district are systematically inspected.

HOUSING.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses inspected under
and for the purposes of Section 17 of the
Act of 1909 : About 250, 84 of which
were reported upon.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses found on inspection
to be in an unfit state for habitation : 15.
- (3) Number of representations made to the local
authority with a view to the making of
Closing Orders : Nil.
- (4) Number of closing Orders made : Nil.
- (5) Number of houses in which defects were
remedied without making closing orders : 75.
Nine houses are being dealt with under the
Public Health Act, 1875.
- (6) General Character of defects found:-
Poor accomodation, especially in the
bedrooms.
Leaky and defective roofs, small windows,
general dilapidations.
Outside nuisances, viz,-drains, privies,
pig-stys, and house refuse.

Mention has been made in former years as to the accomodation in the district for the housing of the working classes, and as to the particular villages in which there was a deficiency.

The Council in the year 1913 erected four cottages in the village of Carlton Scroop, and the additional year's experience has shown the utility of the scheme.

On a particular day in the year, it was found that 38 inmates slept in the four houses. The large majority were young children, and in two instances the downstairs room as well as the three bedrooms were used for sleeping purposes, but even so, it is obvious that accomodation was stretched to its uppermost, and it is difficult to imagine how the various families could have contrived to reside in less commodious premises. A scheme for building new cottages at South Witham was suggested, and negotiations were begun, but they fell through. It is probable that at a later date the question of housing in this village will receive the Council's attention, but the present time is obviously not one to choose for inaugurating building schemes.

During the year, the following houses were built:-

A residence at Great Gonerby for Mr. Burton,
A dwelling-house at Great Gonerby for Mrs. Foyle,
A residence at Barrowby for Mr. R. Garratt,
A Cottage at Barrowby for Mr. Bullock,
Two farm cottages at Stroxtun for Sir C. Welby,
Two cottages, Great North Road, Stoke for
C. Turnor Esq.,
Additional bedrooms to 2 Cottages, Honington
Heath Farm,
Additional bedrooms to 3 cottages at Sudbrook
Heath,
Alterations and additions to Cottage at Great
Ponton for Lord Dysart,
An additional bath-room and bedroom at Barrowby
for Mr. Baines,
New Stabling at Colsterworth, for Capt. Bland.

The plans of the buildings were required to be submitted to the Council, and to conform to the Bye-Laws. These Bye-Laws have been found to be of very great value.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of Infectious Disease in the district during the year is shown in Table 2 at the end of this Report.

During the year, 62 Notifications were received, including 5 cases of Tuberculosis.

41 cases of Diphtheria were notified. Epidemics of the disease occurred at Wolby, eight cases from January to March; at Denton, six cases from February to April; at Ingoldsby, five cases from May to July; and at Stainby, eight cases in December. Of the 41 cases, six died. The remaining cases were generally of a mild type. One severe case recovered after the operation of tracheotomy.

At the beginning of the year, the Isolation Hospital was occupied by six cases of Diphtheria.

There was no urgent necessity to re-open the hospital before the month of September, when its use ^{was} given, if required, to the Military Authority.

Subsequently to this date, your Medical Officer would have advised the removal of cases from Stainby, had the hospital been available. In this village there was extraordinary difficulty in obtaining isolation for patients suffering from the disease, in their own homes.

The Council, which in the previous year adopted Paragraph 67 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, made use of the provision in two instances to provide nursing, in one case to obtain skilled nursing in the

case of tracheotomy previously mentioned, and in the second case to obtain help where a whole household was down with the disease.

In each instance, the procedure was of very great benefit.

The experience of Diphtheria during the year was that the number of cases was considerably greater than in the seven former years, that it tended to assume epidemic form in at least four instances, and was difficult to stamp out.

School children were found to be chiefly affected, but School Closure which was carried out in several instances did not achieve particularly satisfactory results. It was very probable that there were cases of a mild nature which were not seen by a medical man, which acted as the source of infection in several instances.

The neighbouring areas appear to have had a similar experience of this disease. Medical practitioners in the district have made considerable use of the facilities supplied by the Council in examining throat swabs of suspected cases, and the free supply of anti-diphtheria serum.

SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases were notified during the year, occurring

in seven different houses. This is a satisfactorily small number, and no other comment need be made upon this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Of this disease, to which rightly very much importance is attached, there were only five cases notified during the year, one being pulmonary tuberculosis, and the other four being cases where other parts of the body were involved.

These cases were visited, the surroundings in three instances being good, and in two not good.

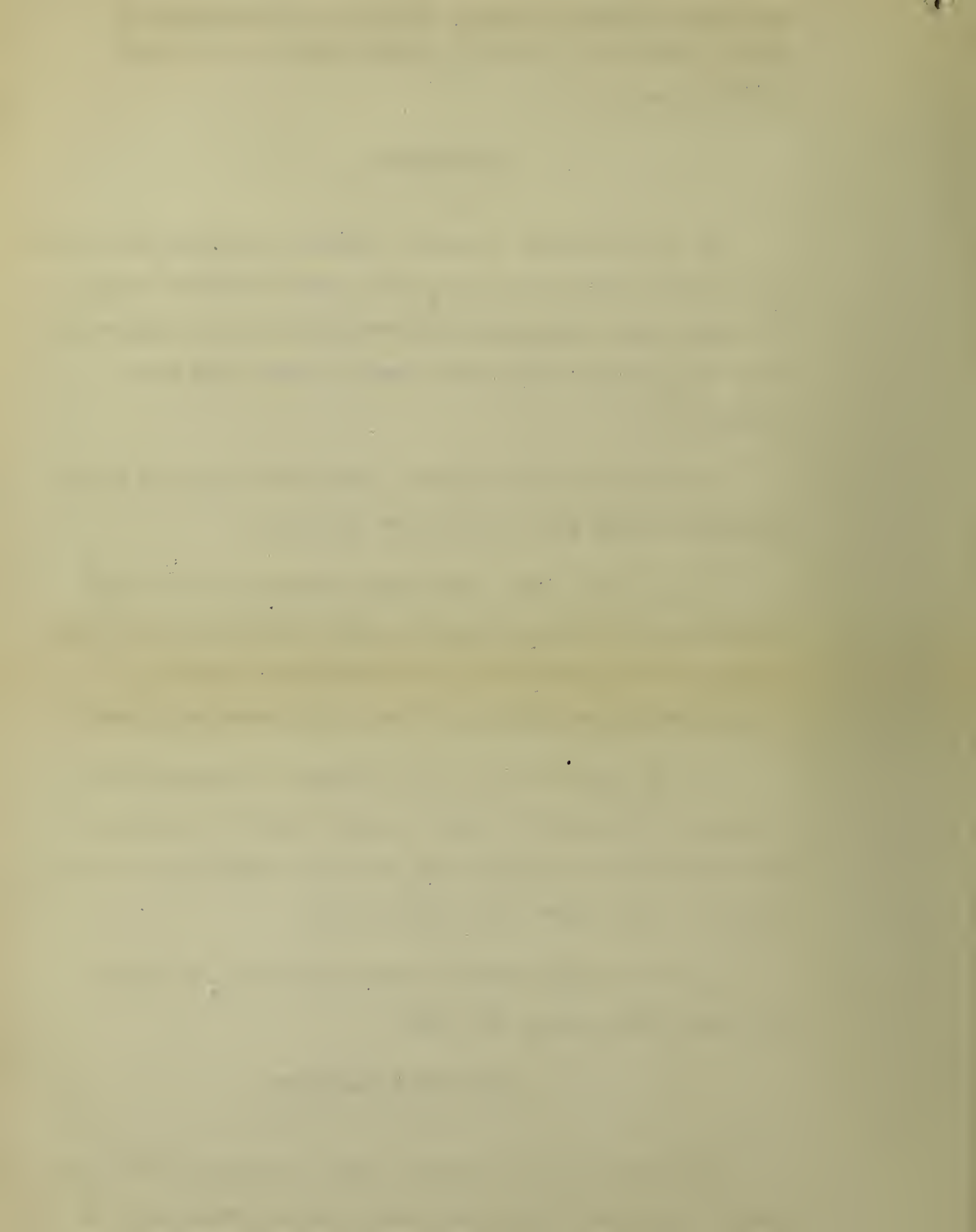
In the year 1913, seventeen notifications of this disease were received, and the great decrease in the year 1914 must be considered to be fortuitous, and the subsequent years likely to show a considerable increase.

In any reflections on the subject of Tuberculosis, however, it should be borne in mind that the disease is one which can be stamped out, and the Regulations of the last few years have this end in view.

An increasing number of investigations of sputum has been made during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of 20 children under the age of one year were registered during the year, and the death rate of



infants per 1,000 births is found to be 79. This is quite a satisfactory low figure, and a reference to Table I will show that during the last five years the infantile mortality has on four out of the five occasions been under 100 per 1,000. This is very well below the average for the whole of England, and is in accordance with expectations that the conditions in a rural area are more conducive to infantile welfare than in more densely populated parts of the country. Your Council did not adopt the Early Notification of Births Act, and, as has been remarked in former reports, the statistics as to infantile mortality show no necessity for the adoption of the Act.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The corrected number of births for the year, including two inward transfers, is 253, which represents a rate of 20.8 per 1,000, the average for the United Kingdom being 24.4. The Birth Rate is therefore a low one, and with the exception of the year 1913, when with 246 births the rate was 20.2, it is the lowest for seventeen years. The number of illegitimate births was 12, or 4.3 per cent.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 133, and with 23 inward transfers added the nett deaths

are 130, representing a rate of 12.8 per 1,000.

The Population on which these figures are calculated has been estimated to be 12,150, and in arriving at this figure, the large number of soldiers and workers in connection with the Camp at Belton has not been included, and no deduction has been made for an appreciable number of residents now absent in the service of their country.

The causes of death are detailed in Table 3. The Table does not show any striking features. As compared with the previous year, there are found to be more deaths from pneumonia--ten against four--, but a considerable decrease in cancer,--11 against 25. Eleven inquests were held on nine violent deaths and one case of suicide, and one case of death from Natural Causes.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

This is carried by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, each of whom, in conjunction and separately, have made many visits to various parts of the District during the year.

No new local Acts were adopted during the year, and the procedure adopted in dealing with infectious disease does not differ from that outlined in former reports.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1914.

Gentlemen,

During the year I have made 283 visits to different parishes in the district, of which 39 were made to the Belton Camp.

DITCHES.-Outfall sewage ditches have been cleaned in the parishes of Barrowby, Great Gonerby, Gelston, Harlaxton, Ingoldshy, Lavington, South Witham, Sudbrook and Welby.

CESS-POOLS.-Village cesspools have had attention in Boothby, Denton, Manthorpe, Hough-on-the-hill, Barrowby, and Ropsley.

A house-to-house Inspection at Gonerby has been most helpful in abolishing a number of foul privy middens.

At Welby, inspection disclosed certain drains defective, and pig-stys too near houses. These matters were put in order. The treatment of the outfall from this village is now nearly completed.

BARROWBY WATER.-A wior has been erected at Mier's Spring, and a regular record of the guaging made. There is every reason to believe there is an ample supply of water

Work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act,
and other matters dealt with during the year are incorporated in the Medical Officer of Health's report.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. RUDKIN.

T A B L E 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Name of District :- G R A N T H A M R U R A L.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	No.	Births	Rate.	Total Deaths registered in the District.	No.	Rate.	Transferable Deaths. Non-Residents.	Residents.	No.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 year of age. Rate per 1000 net Births.	No.	Rate.	At all ages.
1909	12575	292	23.22	167	13.6	32	109.8							
1910	12540	260	20.75	136	10.8	24	92.3							
1911	12257	274	22.35	148	12.07	25	91.2							
1912	12250	277	22.6	140	11.4	26	93.8							
1913	12200	246	20.2	154	12.4	21	85.4							
1914	12150	253	20.8	133	9.5	20	79							

Area of district in acres,)
land and inland water.) 85,827

Number of Inhabited Houses -
Average Number of Persons per house -

Total Population at all ages - 12,257

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1914.

Name of District:-GRANTHAM RURAL.

<u>NOTIFIABLE</u> <u>DISEASE.</u>	At all ages	<u>NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.</u>							Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
		Under 1 1 year.	5 to .5	15 to 15	25 to 25	45 to 45	65 to 65		
Diphtheria, in- cluding Mem- branous Croup	41	2	4	27	2	6	0	6	
Erysipelas	5	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	
Scarlet Fever	11	0	2	7	0	2	0	0	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	
TOTALS	62	3	6	34	4	11	4	6	

Isolation Hospital:-

Whalchone Lane, Grantham.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

<u>CAUSES</u> <u>OF</u> <u>DEATH.</u>	<u>Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents"</u> <u>whether occurring within or without the district.</u>								
	<u>ALL</u> <u>AGES.</u>	<u>Under</u> <u>one</u> <u>year.</u>	<u>1</u> <u>to</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>to</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>to</u> <u>15</u>	<u>15</u> <u>to</u> <u>25</u>	<u>25</u> <u>to</u> <u>45</u>	<u>45</u> <u>to</u> <u>65</u>	<u>65 &</u> <u>up-</u> <u>wards.</u>
Diphtheria and Croup	6	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
Influenza	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
Other tuberculous diseases	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cancer, malignant disease	11	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	3
Organic heart disease	26	0	0	0	1	0	2	6	17
Bronchitis	10	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory organs	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Alcoholism	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and Parturition	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Congenital debility and Malformation including premature birth	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violent deaths, excluding suicide	9	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	1
Suicide	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other defined diseases	51	3	0	1	0	2	2	8	35
Totals	156	20	3	6	8	6	17	27	69

Deaths in Institutions : Nil.

TABLE IV.

1914.-Nett Deaths From stated causes at various ages under 1 Year.

<u>CAUSE OF</u> <u>DEATH.</u>	Under one year. week.	1 to 2 wks	2 to 3 wk	3 to 4 wk	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 mth	3 to 6 mth	6 to 9 mth	9 to 12 mth	Total deaths under 1 year.
Other Tuberculous diseases	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Convulsions	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Bronchitis	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Premature birth	3	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Other Causes	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	3	1	2	2	8	4	2	3	3	20

NETT BIRTHS IN THE YEAR:

Legitimate 241
Illegitimate 12

NETT DEATHS IN THE YEAR:

Legitimate Infants 19
Illegitimate Infants 1

